

II. Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A seat belt buckle assembly, ~~the assembly having:~~ comprising a webbing strap having first and second end portions and a central main part, an end piece defining a an end piece slot to receive the webbing strap and a buckle, the buckle having a buckle slot to receive the webbing strap; strap, the webbing strap having a first portion extending through ~~the slot in the end piece slot~~ and secured to the main part of the webbing strap and a the webbing second portion passing through ~~the slot in the buckle slot~~ and secured to the main part of the webbing strap, ~~one said one of the first or the second portion portions~~ being stitched directly to the main part of the webbing strap and ~~the other portion the other of the first or second portions~~ being stitched to the combination of ~~said one the one~~ portion and the main part of the strap, with stitching passing through the main part and the ~~two~~ first and second portions of the strap.

2. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to Claim 1 wherein ~~the slot in the end piece slot~~ and the ~~slot in the buckle slot~~ each have a width less than the width of the webbing strap, side end portions of the webbing strap being tucked in the region of each slot of the slots, the stitching connecting the ~~said other portion to the combination of the first end portion, the second end portion, and the main region part~~ of the strap extending only through three super-imposed layers of the webbing strap.

3. (Currently Amended) An assembly accordingly to Claim 2 wherein the ~~stitching securing the said other portion to the combination of the first end portion and the main part of the strap~~ stitching is of rhombic form.

4. (Currently Amended) A seat-belt buckle assembly according to ~~any one of the present claims~~ Claim 1 further comprising a connector, the connector having an elongate element and at least one mounting element connected to or formed integrally with the elongate element for pivotal movement relative to the elongate element, ~~the or each mounting element~~ one or more of the mounting elements being resiliently biased to a predetermined position relative to the elongate element, ~~or each mounting element being mounted on the buckle, the said second portion of the webbing strap passing around at least part of the connector, and where it the second portion is superimposed over the main part of the strap, strap, the strap being secured thereto so that the superimposed regions of the strap embrace the said elongate element.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle assembly according to Claim 4, ~~wherein said resilient bias between the or each mounting element~~ further comprising means for resiliently biasing of the elongate element and the one or more mounting elements and the elongate element is effective to move the buckle to an initial position in which the axis of the buckle is substantially perpendicular to the axis of the elongate element.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle assembly according to Claim 4 ~~or Claim 5~~, wherein ~~said the resilient bias~~ means for resilient biasing is effected by at least one resilient biasing element.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle assembly according to ~~Claim 4 or~~ Claim 5, wherein the elongate element is formed of metal sheet, wherein one end of the elongate element forming a loop which receives a rod which is pivotal relative to the elongate element, the rod extending to and being connected to arms which extend from part of the mounting element, the mounting element being constituted by a mounting plate, there being at least one resilient biasing element engaging the elongate element and ~~a said an~~ arm to impart ~~said the bias to~~ means for biasing the mounting element.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle assembly according to Claim 7, wherein ~~the or each said one or more~~ resilient biasing ~~element~~ elements comprises a helical spring surrounding ~~said the~~ rod.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle assembly according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 8~~, Claim 4 wherein ~~said the~~ connector defines the slot present in the buckle.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle assembly according to ~~Claim 4 or~~ Claim 5, wherein ~~the or each mounting element~~ one or more mounting elements and the elongate element are each formed from a single length of bent resilient wire to form the means for biasing.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle assembly according to Claim 10, wherein the elongate element is defined by an elongate loop of ~~said~~ wire extending between a pair of hook-shaped formations, each of the ~~said~~ hook-shaped formation defining a respective mounting element for engagement with the buckle.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle assembly according to Claim 10, wherein the region of ~~said~~ the wire forming the elongate element, and the region of ~~said~~ the wire forming the, ~~or each, mounting element~~ one or more mounting elements are joined by a, ~~or a respective,~~ helically wound region of ~~said~~ the wire, the helically wound region of wire providing ~~said~~ the means for resiliently biasing ~~resilient bias~~ between the, ~~or each, mounting element~~ one or more mounting elements and the elongate element.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An arrangement~~ A seat-belt buckle arrangement according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 12, wherein said~~ Claim 1 wherein the second portion of the strap passes through an aperture in the buckle and around ~~said the or each mounting element~~ one or more mounting elements.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a seat belt buckle assembly having a webbing strap, an end piece defining a slot to receive the webbing strap and a buckle defining a slot to receive the webbing ~~strap;~~ strap, the method comprising the steps ~~of:~~ of passing one end portion of the strap through the slot in the end ~~piece;~~ piece, passing the other end portion of the strap through the

slot in the ~~buckle~~; buckle, securing a first end portion of the strap to the main part of the strap using stitching and subsequently securing the second end portion of the strap to the combination of the one end of the strap and the main piece of the strap using stitching, the stitching passing through the main part and the two portions of the strap.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the strap is wider than each of said the slots, the method comprising the steps of tucking in parts of the strap adjacent each slot and performing the first stitching in a region where there are only two super-imposed layers of strap and performing the second stitching in a region where there are three super-imposed layers of strap.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 wherein ~~said~~ the first end of the strap is passed through the slot in the end piece and the other end of the strap is passed through the slot in the buckle.

17. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of any one of Claims 14 to 16~~ according to Claim 14 wherein after superimposing ~~said~~ one portion and the main body portion of the strap, the adjacent edges of the superimposed strap portions are secured together to define a central pocket, the method including the step of inserting an elongate element of a connector into the pocket, superimposing the other portion of the strap over at least part of the main body portion of the strap, and securing the ~~said~~ other end portion of the strap to the ~~said~~ main body portion of the strap to embrace the elongate element.